

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NASA-04 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 PA-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E. O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: TSPA, XT

SUBJECT: SPACELAB AGREEMENT SIGNING - PRESS GUIDANCE

1. WE WISH TO HANDLE THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON AUGUST 14 IN LOW-KEY FASHION. EMBASSY PARIS AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH WILL ALSO BE ISSUED NASA AND THE DEPARTMENT:

QUOTE: THERE WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE TODAY, AUGUST 14,
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AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOP-

MENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARTNERS OF A SPACE LABORATORY TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE U. S. SPACE SHUTTLE SYSTEM. AT THE INITIAL CEREMONY IN NEUILLY, FRANCE, FIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES - BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM - AND THE UNITED STATES SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NASA AND ESRO, THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, WAS ALSO INITIALLED. THE NETHERLANDS WILL SIGN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON AUGUST 16. ADDITIONAL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN BY SEPTEMBER 21. END QUOTE.

2. WE EXPECT TO HAVE A PUBLIC CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 24 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FORMAL SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

3. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE, WHICH WILL BE USED BY NASA AND THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS, MAY BE USED BY PARIS AND OTHER RECIPIENT POSTS IF QUESTIONED:

Q: WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT TO DEVELOP A SPACE LAB FOR USE WITH THE SPACE SHUTTLE SYSTEM?

A: ON JULY 31, 1973, A MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF SCIENCE OF SOME TEN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AGREED TO A TOTAL PROGRAM CONSISTING OF:

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF A SPACE LABORATORY (CALLED SPACE-LAB IN EUROPE) FOR USE WITH THE U. S. SPACE SHUTTLE.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF A HEAVY LAUNCHER, PRESENTLY CALLED L3S.

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF A MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CALLED MAROTS.

(4) CREATION OF A NEW SINGLE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA) BY APRIL 1, 1974.

THE EUROPEANS EXPECT TO COMPLETE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS FOUR-PART PACKAGE BY MID-SEPTEMBER. MEANWHILE, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWING ARE ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE CONCLUSION OF U. S.-EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS ON THE SPACELAB PROJECT:

(1) THE SIGNING IN PARIS ON AUGUST 10 BY SIX COUNTRIES (UK, FRANCE, GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, NETHERLANDS) OF A EUROPEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE SPACE LABORATORY AS AN ESRO "SPECIAL PROJECT". (THE U. S. IS NOT A PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT.)

(2) THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE IN PARIS ON AUGUST 14 OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND THE U. S. ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPACE LABORATORY.

(3) THE INITIALING IN PARIS ON AUGUST 14 OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ESRO AND NASA SETTING FORTH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ESRO WILL UNDERTAKE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPACE LABORATORY. THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND THE NASA/ESRO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ARE SUBJECT TO A RESERVATION BY THE EUROPEANS THAT GOVERNMENTS MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE AGREEMENT BY SEPTEMBER 24 IF THE PARTICIPATING EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT ACHIEVED SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES FOR COMPLETION OF THE FOUR-PART PACKAGE.

(4) THE PLANNED SIGNING IN WASHINGTON ON SEPTEMBER 24TH OF THE NASA/ESRO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY THE TWO AGENCY HEADS.

Q: WHAT ARE THE "SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS" IN THE RESERVATION TO WHICH YOU REFERRED?

A: THE ARRANGEMENTS RELATE TO THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SPACELAB, L3S, AND MAROTS PROJECTS AND TO THE APPROVAL OF A TEXT OF A DOCUMENT RELATING TO THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY.

4. TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE AND Q&A HAVE NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH ESRO. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONVEY TEXT IMMEDIATELY TO ROY GIBSON OF ESRO WHO HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT U. S. WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS REGARDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOTH RELEASE AND Q&A. SINCE U. S. STATEMENTS RELATE TO SPACE LABORATORY AGREEMENT, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT ESRO TEXT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PROJECTS OF EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN CHARACTER. NEVERTHELESS, WE AND ESRO ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT, WHILE STATEMENTS ON SPACE LABORATORY AGREEMENT NEED NOT BE IDENTICAL IN WORDING, THEY NEVERTHELESS SHOULD BE FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME. WE ARE ALSO IN AGREEMENT THAT PUBLICITY REGARDING INITIAL SIGNING CEREMONY SHOULD BE LOW-KEY. ROGERS

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